AFTER LOSING HIS RAISON D'ÊTRE AS A MANGA CREATOR, HE FINDS HIMSELF IN HER HOMETOWN...

BEEP BEEP.

CLICK

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DOWNFALL

CREATED BY INIO ASANO ◆ AND PRESENTED BY mangastream.com

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MOM LET ME USE HER CAR.

MISS ME?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BORING LITTLE PLACE, RIGHT?

2

THERE'S NOTHING AROUND, TRUE...

...THERE'S AN INDUSTRIAL PARK NOT FAR FROM HERE. THIS TOWN WAS BUILT TO SUPPORT IT, SUPPOSEDLY.

BASICALLY EVERYONE FROM AROUND HERE WORKS THERE.

LOTS OF TRUCKS PASS THROUGH, TOO ...IT'S KINDA GLOOMY.

MY OWN TOWN'S PRETTY MUCH LIKE THIS, TOO. I DIDN'T REALLY LIKE IT.

ESPECIALLY THAT FEELING OF BEING CHAINED TO YOUR BIRTH-PLACE... OR TO YOUR FAMILY.

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ALL WE HAVE LEFT ARE PACHINKO PARLORS AND FUNERAL HOMES.

AND THE USUAL CHAIN STORES, OF COURSE, LINING THE HIGHWAYS.

BY THE WAY, SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE DECIDED TO PUT GRANDMA IN A NURSING HOME.

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE BACK IN TOKYO EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT.

HOWEVER, THAT'S PROBABLY GOING TO MEAN I WON'T BE GETTING AS MUCH MONEY ANYMORE.

I'M A BIT WORRIED, ACTUALLY. MY RENT'S PRETTY HIGH. I'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH IT AS IT IS...

REALLY?

THAT'S GOOD, THEN.

HOW MUCH?

150 THOUSAND.*

YEAH, THAT'S A BIT TOO MUCH FOR SOMEONE LIVING ALONE ...

T/N: AROUND $1350.

SO YOU STARTED THAT JOB TO SAVE MONEY FOR A NEW PLACE?

I USED TO HAVE A ROOMMATE, BUT SHE LEFT ALL OF A SUDDEN.

YUP.

WELL, IN THE BEGINNING, AT LEAST.

I REALLY GOTTA MOVE OUT SOON.

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THAT'S WHY I GET TO TRAVEL AROUND AND SO ON.

AND, WHEN I LIKE SOMETHING, I CAN ACTUALLY AFFORD IT... IT FEELS GOOD.

BUT THEN IT GOT COMPLICATED...

TO BE HONEST, THIS LINE OF WORK JUST PAYS TOO WELL.

YOU KIND OF GET ADDICTED TO WATCHING YOUR BANK ACCOUNT GROW.

...SO YOU CAN'T STOP ANYMORE?

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I'M THINKING OF DOING IT FOR AS LONG AS I'M IN COLLEGE.

IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN STAYING HERE, AT ANY RATE.

I SEE...

...OH.

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST, HUH.

THIS USED TO BE A SECOND-HAND STORE.

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I NEVER REALLY HAD MANY FRIENDS,

BUT THERE WAS THIS ONE GIRL... WE WERE CLOSE SINCE CHILDHOOD. KIND OF A WILD ONE, BUT ANYWAY.

SHE'D ALWAYS LEND ME HER MANGA...

AND SHE GOT THEM FROM THAT STORE.

WHEN A BOOK CALIGHT HER EYE, SHE'D CHECK ON IT AGAIN AND AGAIN. EVERY DAY. UNTIL THE PRICE FELL TO A HUNDRED YEN.

YOU KNOW THE TYPE, RIGHT?

TOOK HER HALF AN HOUR JUST TO GET HERE, BUT SHE'D GET ON HER BICYCLE AND COME ALL THE SAME.

BINGO.

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BUT ALL SHE'D EVER READ WAS SHALLOW, COMMERCIAL CRAP... I NEVER CARED FOR ANY OF IT.

AND EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY LIKE MANGA, I TRIED TO READ WHAT SHE'D PICK OUT. TO GET TO KNOW HER BETTER, Y'KNO?

SHE WAS BIKING TO THE STORE AS ALWAYS, DEAD TIRED AFTER TRAINING, WHEN THE TRUCK HIT HER.

SUMMER VACATIONS, BUT SHE WAS IN THE TRACK-AND-FIELD TEAM— AND TOOK IT SERIOUSLY.

I THINK IT WAS ON OUR SECOND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL.

DON'T KILL HER OFF JUST YET.

AND SHE DIED?

NO, IT WAS NO BIG DEAL. IN FACT SHE WAS QUITE HAPPY FOR GETTING A NEW BIKE OUT OF IT.

FamiStop

BUT IT WAS HER SIMPLE-MIND-EDNESS THAT IT SCARED ME.

I COULD TELL THAT SHE'D NEVER ONCE REALIZE HOW PETTY LIFE HERE IS, NOT TILL THE DAY SHE DIED.

SHE CAME BACK TO THE STORE AGAIN THE VERY NEXT DAY, EVEN!

HOW COULDN'T SHE? THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO IN THIS TOWN.

THE IDEA OF WASTING YOUR ENTIRE LIFE CHASING AFTER THRIFT-STORE MANGA... MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL.

YOU GET IT, RIGHT?

THE WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE IS OVERFLOWING WITH BETTER THINGS TO DO... JUST PEEK OUT AND TAKE A LOOK.

EDITABLE POLY

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HMM...

BEING HERE LIMITS YOUR CHOICES.

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN GET OUT OF A PLACE LIKE THIS.

IS THERE SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR YOU WANT TO DO IN TOKYO?

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PHEW!

IT'S HOT TODAY...

THAT'S A SECRET.

LIVING ALONE AND FREE IS ITS OWN CHAL-LENGE, TOO...

I WORRY A BIT ABOUT YOU.

CLACK-CLACK

CLACK-CLACK

CLACK-CLACK

...AND?

CLACK-
CLACK

SINCE YOU'RE MOVING ...

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PLACE, YOU COULD MOVE IN WITH ME.

...I'LL BE LIVING ALONE STARTING NEXT MONTH. I EVEN HAVE A FREE ROOM.

YOU'RE SO WEIRD.

PFF...

IN TRUTH, THOUGH, I'M TOTALLY IN THE DARK HERE.

WHAT SORT OF PERSON ARE YOU, REALLY?

I HAVE THIS IMAGE OF YOU AS A CAREFREE GUY, BUT...

QUITE THE SELF-SERVING GUY, AREN'T YOU.

LEAVING ALL THE TALKING TO ME.

...'CAUSE, DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE PLANNING ON MINING IT FOR MATERIAL FOR A NEW MANGA. AM I RIGHT?

YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF INTO THIS WEIRD SITUATION ON PURPOSE...

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WAIT.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

WHEN DID I TELL YOU I'M A MANGA AUTHOR?

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YOUR LINE LOGIN NAME, SILLY.

SORRY, I COULDN'T RESIST.

IF YOU SEARCH IT ONLINE, EVERY-THING COMES RIGHT OUT.

VERTEX EDGE

THAT'S A GOOD TWIST FOR THE MANGA, TOO.

DON'T YOU THINK... FUKASAWA-SENSEI?

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

THOUGH THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS MANGA WILL BE A COMPLETE BLOCKHEAD.

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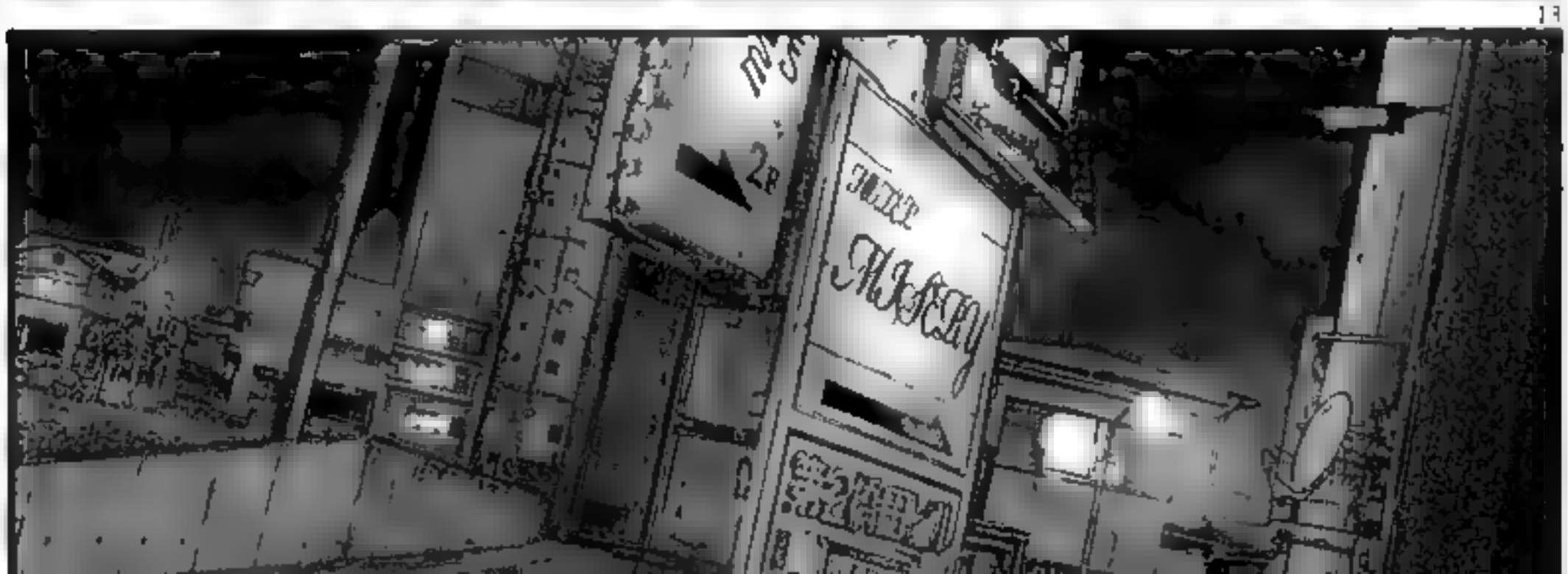

AH!

AH!

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AH...

MORE...

...MORE!!

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LOOKING AT YOU LIKE THIS...

YOU ACTUALLY CAN BE KIND OF HOT.

YOU'RE GORGEOUS.

OOARAI'S PRETTY FAR, YOU KNOW?

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WHAT ABOUT MITO?

MITO? I THINK THEY'LL BE HAVING THE KOMON FESTIVAL SOON.

AND YOU?

THEN I GUESS I'LL JUST GRAB MY THINGS AND GO THERE.

AS SOON AS GRANDMA'S SETTLED IN, I'M HEADING BACK TO TOKYO.

SURE.

さよなら サンセット 1

失と再生の 春狂想曲

COULD YOU SIGN THIS FOR ME?

OH, YES!

I ALMOST FORGOT.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.

I GOT THIS MANGA BECAUSE OF YOU.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, MY AUTOGRAPH IS WORTH ALMOST NOTHING.

NAH, IT'S NOTHING...

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EVERYONE IN THE INDUSTRY CAN DO THAT MUCH...

WOW! THAT'S THE REAL THING FOR YOU...

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SIGH...

THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE WHITE LINE.

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...

DOWNFALL

INIO
ASANO

CHAPTER 5

HE SEES HOW SHE HAS CHANGED AFTER FINDING OUT WHAT HE IS. IT SENDS HIM REELING. HE SMILES BITTERLY AT HIS OWN DELUSIONS OF THEIR FUTURE, AS HE CRASHES BACK INTO STAGNATION.

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